

Editorial

The Contemporary Pacific marked its tenth anniversary one year ago. It has been a remarkable decade for the journal and for Pacific studies as a whole. In this time, a generation of Pacific Islanders has come of age in postcolonial island nations, and many more have grown up in communities of the Pacific rim. At the same time, states as diverse as Fiji, Hawai'i, Kanaky, and Aotearoa are host to new, visible movements for indigenous empowerment. In these contexts, Pacific studies continues to shift and change. Scholarly writing about the Pacific not only tracks these developments, but is itself a site of debate over matters of representation and authority. From its inception, the journal has embraced these issues and sought to combine wide, comparative writing about the Pacific with thoughtful reflection about the conventions and politics of scholarship itself.

Given the mood of crisis in area studies today, taking on the mantle of journal editor might seem more than a little foolhardy. Perhaps it is. But if so, whatever rashness is involved is tempered by the fact that *The Contemporary Pacific* is at heart a collective enterprise. Major decisions are made by the Editorial Board as a whole, with substantial input from correspondents, reviewers, and friends of the journal. This talented, diverse, and committed community of scholars makes the journal what it is. With excellent support from the University of Hawai'i Press under the direction of Bill Hamilton and sponsorship from the University's Center for Pacific Islands Studies directed by Robert Kiste, the institutional context for journal production has been right from the start.

The journal has benefited enormously from the sustained involvement of several members of the Editorial Board from the time of inception. Especially notable here are Robert Kiste, Chair; Terence Wesley-Smith, Associate Editor; and Linley Chapman, Managing Editor. As well, former editor David Hanlon, Resources Editor Karen Peacock, and board members Ben Finney, Nancy Lewis, and myself have been with the journal from the beginning. One of the distinctive features of the journal is its creative use of several different formats, presented as Dialogue, Political

Reviews, Resources, and Book Reviews sections. The editors of these sections have established a consistently high quality of work that has become a defining feature of the journal. Finally, and most important, *The Contemporary Pacific* has been blessed with two remarkable editors in its short history: founding editor Brij Lal and, for the past six years, David Hanlon. I can think of no better formula for the future of the journal than extending the standards of scholarship and the spirit of openness and dialogue that have characterized its first decade of publication.

A change of editorship is also an occasion for stocktaking. The board has begun a series of discussions that will begin to show up in new initiatives. One of the most significant developments is the expansion of the Editorial Board to include three new members, all faculty at the University of Hawai'i's Mānoa campus: Lilikalā Kame'eleihiwa of Hawaiian Studies, Davianna McGregor of Ethnic Studies, and Caroline Sinavaiana-Gabbard of the English Department. The addition of three Pacific Island scholars, two of them Native Hawaiian, significantly strengthens the journal's engagement with indigenous concerns. At the same time, and not to be overlooked, is the widening of disciplinary perspectives brought by these three new members.

Pacific scholarship is being dramatically affected by the emergence of significant numbers of native scholars, writers, and artists. Future expansion of the journal's representation of diverse voices will inevitably entail a more active involvement with literature, film, and the arts. In line with this new interest, the Book Review section edited by Letitia Hickson will be expanded to include films, CD-ROMs, websites, and related media.

Another topic under discussion by the board concerns the journal's electronic future. Like all publishing enterprises, *The Contemporary Pacific* is taking a hard look at the possibilities and pitfalls of electronic publication. Most immediately, this translates into more active and creative use of the journal's site on the World Wide Web (<http://www2.hawaii.edu/uhipress/journals/cp/>). As if to signal the increasing significance of these formats for our readership, this issue includes a Dialogue essay and a Resources article on Pacific websites. Beyond these developments, the entire mode of publishing and disseminating the journal will be continually scrutinized as we take stock of changing technologies and their implications for new ways of reaching audiences old and new.

As we move ahead with these initiatives and the more familiar, day-to-day work of publishing original scholarship on the Pacific, we invite the journal's friends and readers to submit work, share commentary, and continue the kind of interaction we have enjoyed during the first decade of publishing *The Contemporary Pacific*.

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